industrial concerns in sugar-cane, coir, earthenware, etc., provide the necessary capital and appoint experts to run and supervise their work. In conclusion, the member requested that an industrial school might be opened immediately in the Parur taluk and that steps should be taken to start one or other industrial concern there at an early date.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Vasu Menon, the evil you have pointed out is real and the general remedy for it is easily prescribed. The evil is that there is unemployment among the middle classes, educated youths, and the remedy has been suggested times out of number. By starting industries, there will be a gradual absorption of unemployed educated young men.

The evil is one that is not confined to Travancore; but you find it all over India and various Governments and other bodies are trying to solve the problem of unemployment. We have been trying to see how industries could be either started or encouraged. I do not think, as yet, any Government has succeeded in creating sufficient industrial concerns to absorb all the unemployed.

You say that in Parur especially there are facilities for starting coir-matting industry, sugar industry and the manufacture of tiles. So far as coir-matting is concerned, it is an industry that is well-known in Travancore. If you go to Alleppey, you will find that this is one of the most important industries carried on there for a very long time. It is not a kind of industry which requires special encouragement from Government. So also in the case of tile manufacture. Go to Quilon and see the works there. These are not the lines on which special technical instruction at the expense of Government is needed in Travancore. In regard to sugar, I may tell you that the condition of sugar at the present time in the market is not at all encouraging. Government have one sugar concern on their hands. For the present, they are satisfied with it and they do not want to take up any more.

You say that there is want of capital and that that is one of the reasons for industries not being started in sufficient numbers. That is not a new theory and the way in which that difficulty might be overcome is by the formation of Joint Stock Companies, where a combination of individuals will be able to finance a big industry. What is done in other countries is that a number of people who can contribute even small amounts form a Joint Stock Company and with the money thus collected set up an industry. I do not want to discourage your enthusiasm for starting new industries nor do I say that Government are not going to help any industry useful to the State being set up. I merely wish you to understand that all industries cannot be started solely with Government money.

Your suggestion for starting an industrial school at Parur is noted.

36. The Public works Department and suggestions for making it more useful to the public.

MR. C. P. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Shertallai Taluk, Group I*) gave expression to the feelings of loyalty to the Ruling Family and of

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oy on the conferment of the title of C. I. on Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent and requested the Dewan to convey the same to Her Highness.

Passing on to his subject, the member said that, in the matter of communications and other public works, the Shertallai taluk had been ignored for a very long time although it stood foremost in revenue and population. In the year 1104, a large amount was spent on public works in the State ; but it was regrettable that the works were confined to certain selected places. In the Capital, for instance, a large expenditure was incurred on the electric and water supply schemes and the railway extension. The member said that the expenditure on them should not be met from the general revenues but from funds raised by loans repayable from the income derived from those schemes.

The member next referred to the need for completing the Alleppey Shertallai canal. For a very long time the Government were vacillating whether a road or a canal was necessary. One administration decided in favour of a canal while the next was in favour of a road. The third was in favour of a canal and the next in favour of a road again. It was now the time for a canal and therefore the canal should be taken up and finished.

The public works undertaken by the Public Works Department were not executed promptly and in time. Works benefiting the people at large were not attended to then and there. There was no proper control over the work done by the *Maistries*. The coolies paid from the public revenues were very often employed for private purposes. That was one of the chief reasons why execution of works was delayed. Every year large amounts provided in the budget lapsed. That was chiefly due to the incapacity of officers to finish the sanctioned items of work within the prescribed time. All those evils would be removed if Taluk Boards were constituted with power to recommend works that were necessary in each taluk and fix their order of urgency.

No fixed policy was pursued by the Public work Department in regard to the giving of contracts. A fixed policy should be laid down and contractors who were finishing the works satisfactorily and in time should be encouraged.

The P. W. Department was over-manned. As in the case of the Revenue Department, 4 District Officers (Executive Engineers) were sufficient. The places of the remaining Executive Engineers should be abolished. The practice of appointing special officers for particular works should also be stopped. The savings effected might be more advantageously utilised for other purposes by the Department.

There was no fixed principle in allotting funds for public works in each taluk. Except in the case of the important towns in the State, the allotment of funds should be on the basis of population of each taluk or of the revenue derived therefrom.

In conclusion, the member prayed that the Chief Engineer might be asked to visit the Shertallai taluk very often as such visits would be helpful in improving the means of communication in the taluk.

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DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Padmanabha Pillai, I shall be glad to convey your expressions of loyalty and devotion to Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent.

In regard to the complaint that your taluk was ignored by the Government and the P. W. D. some years ago that may have been true. But you repeat the same thing now and I am constrained to note that, I can only characterise this as showing an amount of ingratitude. I am sure, you will be the first person to concede that, in recent years, in spite of neglect in former years, your taluk, Shertallai, has become a favoured taluk. That does not mean that all the roads and bridges in your taluk that you may possibly want have been made. But in recent years, your taluk has not by any means been ignored by the Government or the P. W. D. You refer to the canal between Alleppey and Shertallai. You may remember, from the very beginning there were two alternative schemes—one a canal and the other a road. At one time, the authorities were in favour of a canal, at another, in favour of a road. The last administration decided that there shall be a road. I do not know if, having got the road, you can legitimately call upon me to declare in favour of a canal. Speaking from information that I have been able to gather and from the opinion of people who know about it, I can say that there is now no necessity for a canal.

In regard to allotment of funds in the budget, you say that it must be either according to the total revenue collected from the taluk or according to population in the taluk. I cannot agree with you on this point. It would be like the conduct of a *karanavan* dealing with his *seshakars* some of whom may not be able to earn sufficient money for their maintenance. The *karanavan* should see that the income is divided between his *seshakars* not equally but equitably. The Government too have to see what the urgent needs of the various taluks are. Hereafter you may fight out your road and bridge problems in the Road Boards. You have a District Board and a Central Board. On what principle the allotments are to be distributed will be left in a large measure to the people and the District Boards.

You say that some amounts are allowed to lapse every year. That might be due to various causes. The allotments are made in anticipation of sanction to works or estimates. It sometimes happens that the estimates require alteration. In some other cases, the work could not be completed in the year.

You also say that there are too many officers in the P. W. Department and consider that as one of the reasons why works are not done regularly. I must take the liberty of correcting you there. As a matter of fact, the ratio of the amount spent on establishment to the total amount spent by the department is very low. Compared to other parts of India, ours is the smallest percentage. Take Madras, the cost of the establishment there is about double of that here. In Mysore, it is more or less the same. As a matter of fact, the real complaint is that we have not sufficient officers to carry out the growing work of the P. W. D. in recent years. If you compare the allotment

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of the last year with that of 15 years ago, you will find that the total amount has doubled, but the establishment has not increased to anything like that and the consequence is that the establishment consumes only about 12 per cent. of the total allotment.

You said that the department should give contracts and encourage contractors, as far as possible, who have sufficient experience. I believe that is what the department is actually doing now. I have found several recommendations from the Chief Engineer in favour of contractors who have done work successfully before. That is one of the reasons kept in view by the department in selecting contractors for work.

All the other points raised in your representation are noted for consideration.

37. Certain needs of the eastern pakuthies of Changanachery taluk.

MR. NAINAN SOURIYAR (*Changanachery taluk, Group I*) spoke about certain urgent needs of the Changanacherry taluk. The first and chief of these was the widening and deepening of the canals running through the *virippu* and *mundakan* paddy fields. An estimate had been sanctioned for improving a length of four miles of the *todu* starting from Nalunakkal. The work should be put in hand soon and the other canals running through the above-said paddy lands should also be taken up in quick succession. Owing to the neglected condition of the canals and frequent breaches, the paddy lands were silted up and rendered unfit for cultivation.

The need for completing the Chalakkal *todu* had been urged on the Government on more occasions than one. The Dewan also had realised the need on his local inspection. The only difficulty in carrying out the work was the blasting of a rock lying along the course of the canal. The high cost of the work should not be considered as sufficient reason for stopping it, as the canal would benefit a large number of ryots from whom a water cess might be recovered. Further, there was great demand for rubble and therefore the people themselves would be prepared to have the rock blasted at their cost, provided they were allowed to take the rubble free.

Other needs of the taluk were the following :—

(1) Completion of the Alleppey-Changanachery canal.

(2) Conversion of the Perumpankadchia—Tottakad village road into a public road and provision of a bridge at Kadanchirapadam and a culvert at Valiavayalpadam.

(3) Metalling of the Kanjirapalli-Manimala road and construction of a bridge across the Mulaplakkal *todu*.

(4) Improvement of the Kanjirapalli-Mundakayam road.

(5) Improvement of the Kanjirapalli-Erumeli road and construction of a bridge across the Manimala river.

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